Abba Garima

(5th Century)

BRIEFING

Abba Gärima (Geʿez: አቡ ገሪማ; also known as Abba Yeshaq; fl. c. late 400s and early 500s A.D.), was one of the Nine Saints of Ethiopia. A hagiography about him was written in a late 15th-century gädl (Acts) composed at Endä Gärima by a bishop Yohannan. Carlo Conti Rossini, “L’omilia di Yohannes vescovo di Aksum in onore di Garima,” Actes du Congrès International des Orientalistes, Section Sémitique (Paris, 1898), 140-177. Italian introduction, summary, and notes, Ge`ez text without translation.

Abba Garima is known for founding the Abba Garima Monastery, and was also known as a craftsman.

LIFE

According to the hagiographical "Life," his father was Mäsfeyanos, King of Rum (Byzantium).

After his father's death, he became a king for 7 years, after which Abba Päntäléwon summoned him to be a monk with him for 5 years.

Afterwards, Abba Gärima established a monastery at Mädära, where he stayed for about 20 years. At Mädära, he was a wonderworker who exorcised demons and performed miracles for the sick.

Gärima died on 17 Säné (24 June).